

EDISON PLANT AND RECORDS FLAMES' PREY

Twenty-four Buildings and
Treasured Papers Are De-
stroyed by Fire.

LOSS SET AT \$5,000,000

Wife Saves Some of Records
While Inventor Watches
Life Work Go.

4,000 PUT OUT OF EMPLOYMENT

Cities Nearby Rush Engines to Scene,
but They Arrive Too
Late.

Special to The Washington Herald.
New York, Dec. 9.—Thomas A. Edison
watched the obliteration in flame to-
night of the world famous plant in West
Orange, N. J., where most of his great
contributions to human progress had been
conceived and many of them made.

Treasures that can never be replaced,
records that can never be replaced, are
burned. In their burning, the loss of a
\$5,000,000 plant, stocked with phonographs
and delicate machinery—a plant consist-
ing of twenty-four buildings that were
the financial keystone of all the Oranges
—became almost insignificant.

Wife Saves Records.

Mr. Edison was in the plant when the
fire started about 5:30 o'clock. He came
calmly from his laboratory, where he had
been at work, and took charge of the
first operations of the factory's private
fire-fighting force. But his wife, running
from the house, a few hundred yards
away, and followed by her sons, Thomas,
Jr., and Charles, found the master almost
a maniac. It was she who sped into the
office and carried out by armfuls the
precious records, the invaluable notes of
future inventions that Mr. Edison had
made. She alone knew where his most
precious possessions were. Those which
could be saved were spilled into a dirty
farm wagon, the only thing that could be
found to carry them away.

Mr. Edison, after witnessing the swift
spread of the fire from the film depart-
ment, where it started, to the adjoining
buildings on all sides, had become prac-
tically helpless.

The towering flames that meant to
thousands of the countryside unem-
ployment and poverty glared him as he
stood dazed before the destruction of
his beloved sanctuary of dreams. Then
came the break.

The fire departments of East, West
and South Orange fought the flames.
Newark sent three companies, but they
were too late to do more than protect
adjoining property.

Two Girls Burned.

Two girls were burned in the first
explosion. William Trocher, an em-
ployee of the film department, did not
appear after he was seen to enter the
building to help the girls escape. A
fireman was injured and two others
were burned.

The properties destroyed are those of
the Edison Phonograph Company, the
Edison Manufacturing Company, the
Thomas A. Edison corporation, and the
Bates Manufacturing Company.

The Edison Storage Battery Company,
which has a building across the way
from the main plant, escaped damage.
The insurance was stated to be \$2,000,000.
Four thousand employees are out of work.

Thomas A. Edison had been twenty-
four years in building the West Orange
works. He moved there from Menlo
Park, where he had made his start in a
little wooden factory the birthplace of
the incandescent light.

The only building saved on the block
was the laboratory.

"Although I am over sixty-seven, I'll
start all over again tomorrow," said Mr.
Edison. "I am pretty well burned out
tonight, but tomorrow there will be a
motivation and the debris will be cleared
away. If it is cooled sufficiently, and I
will go right to work to reconstruct the
plant."

TRYING TO SAVE THE KING

—as revealed by a world-famous spy—is the "Imperial Secret" disclosed
in next Sunday's Four-color Magazine Section of The Washington
HERALD.

"How the Czar's Dream Dried a Woman's Tears" is another article
of particular interest at this time—a fact, not fiction, and of the present
and not the future.

Then there's the Pictorial Review of the War—that weekly review of
the momentous occasion abroad in pictures that are interesting all Wash-
ington and producing the usual number of imitations that are sincerest
flattery.

Add the Main News Section, the Society and Fraternal Section, the
Sporting "Pink" Section, and the Four-color Comic Section—and you
have

The Washington Herald

The National Capital's biggest and best Sunday newspaper.

PLACE YOUR NEXT SUNDAY'S ORDER NOW. 5c PLACE YOUR NEXT SUNDAY'S ORDER NOW.

Army Insufficient To Defend Country Against Big Power

—SECRETARY GARRISON.

Annual Report Calls for 25,000 More Regulars, Additional
Officers to Train Recruits, and Immediate Legislation
Providing Trained Reserves, for Regulars and National
Guard—Secretary Also Wants Immediate Artillery In-
crease—Declares Progress an Opponent Could Make
While We Were Training War Army Would Make At-
tempt at Defense Futile—Present Mobile Army Less
Than Twice the Size of New York Police Force.

FLETCHER REFUTES ALARMIST NAVY REPORTS,
BUT SAYS WE COULD NOT HOLD PHILIPPINES

ARMY NEEDS 25,000 MORE MEN AND RESERVES NAVY ADMITS SUPERIORITY OF ENGLAND ALONE

REAR ADMIRAL F. F. FLETCHER.
England is the only country we
could not successfully resist. No
one is advocating that we build a
navy as large as that of Great
Britain.

Under present building programs,
Germany will have a larger navy
than the United States in 1919.

The American fleet alone could
not prevent capture of the Philip-
pines by Japan or any other hostile
power.

It takes longer to train a man
than to build a battleship. We need
between 4,000 and 5,000 additional
men.

The submarine delays fleets. Bat-
tleships decide conflicts. Our hun-
dred submarines could protect our
coasts.

New York City, with its fortifica-
tions, plus mines, is immune from
successful naval attack.

That the United States has no
reason to fear any navy except that
of Great Britain, was the statement
made before the House Committee on
Naval Affairs yesterday by Rear Ad-
miral Frank F. Fletcher, who com-
manded the attacking force at Vera
Cruz. He said that in an emergency
the fleet could put to sea ready for
action within less than a week, and
that it would give a good account of
itself.

Battleships Still Supreme.

The appearance of Admiral Fletcher
marked the first time in the history of
the committee a naval officer appeared
in public to discuss strategy and war
matters.

Admiral Fletcher testified that while
the navies of Great Britain and Germany
outrank that of the United States there
would be an evening of forces in war
with the latter because Germany would
be compelled at all times to keep fleets
in home waters.

He said that Great Britain would be
in a position to send a fleet across to
engage our own, "keep a large fleet in
home waters and at the same time con-
trol the sea."

Admiral Fletcher insisted that the prin-
cipal naval lesson of the European war
was that the battleship will not be dis-
placed by the submarine as the main
naval weapon. The main British fleet,
he said, had not been endangered or
seriously damaged by German subma-
rines.

Admiral Fletcher said that 100 sub-
marines would protect the coasts of the
United States. He confirmed statements
made in the press that only one subma-
rine was lost.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT.

SECRETARY OF WAR GARRISON.
Add to the regular army 25,000
men. Form a reserve always sub-
ject to call; create a similar Na-
tional Guard reserve.

We need 1,000 more officers to
train recruits.

In event of war we could sum-
mon an extreme limit 11,000 offi-
cers and 185,000 men, regulars and
National Guard.

To make volunteers ready would
take six months. A prepared
army would progress so far in six
months that an unprepared antag-
onist might as well concede defeat.
Present legislation for a reserve
produce sixteen men in twenty-four
months.

Use the standing army as a school
from which men can be discharged
after a year if proficient. Then we
will begin to build a reserve, and
for the first time in history will
have something approximating a
balanced organization.

Secretary of War Garrison in his an-
nual report yesterday earnestly
recommends the United States regu-
lar army to be recruited to its full
strength, an addition of 25,000 men,
the formation of a reserve force al-
ways subject to recall, a similar re-
serve for the National Guard, and
some method for the training of more
citizens to become officers.

These recommendations were made
as a result of lessons learned by the
European war.

Greatest Force 164,887.

The regular army on June 30, con-
sisted of 4,701 officers, and \$7,751 men.
The mobile army was composed of only
2,935 officers and \$1,446 men.

Scarcely any unit of the army ever
has its proper complement of officers,
the Secretary says, and need for in-
crease of officers is urgent.

In Continental United States we had
in the mobile army June 30, 2,659 of-
ficers and 45,800 men. The militia total-
ed 8,323 officers and 119,087 men.

The Secretary comments:

"If all of the National Guard could
be summoned in event of war and
should all respond (an inconceivable re-
sult), and if they were all found fairly
efficient in the first line—that is, the
troops who would be expected to im-
mediately take the field—we could
summon a force in this country of regu-
lars and national guard amounting to
11,012 officers and 164,887 men."

"This is absolutely all. The only
other resource would then be volun-
teers, and to equip, organize, train, and
make them ready would take, at the
smallest possible estimate, six months."

"Any one who takes the slightest
trouble to investigate will find that in
modern warfare a prepared enemy
would progress so far on the way to
success in six months, if his antagonist
had to wait six months to meet him,
that such an unprepared antagonist
might as well concede defeat without
contest."

"We have on hand in reserve sufficient
small arms, small-arm ammunition and
equipment, roughly figuring, for the 500,000
men that would have to be called into the
field in any large emergency. We have
nothing like sufficient artillery and ar-
tillery ammunition. Artillery is an essen-
tial feature of modern warfare, and a
proper proportion to any army is indis-
pensable if success is to be even hoped for."

Wants Volunteer Motor Service.
The Secretary suggests that a "volunteer
motor transportation force be organized
from the motor vehicles adaptable to mil-
itary use now in the hands of private citi-
zens."

The Secretary gives a table showing the
war resources of other nations in proportion
to our own and comments:
"Whatever else may properly be drawn
from the facts as disclosed it cannot be
overestimated."

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT.

Holiday Parties to All Points South.

Spend your holiday in the open. Golf
and all other outdoor recreations. Six
times daily. Southern Rail-
way. Liberal selling dates and limits.
Ask agents for particulars. 705 15th
St. N. W. Phone Main 1212.
—Adv.

ONLY SOLDIERS WILL RECEIVE RED CROSS AID

Helping of Europe's Hungry
People Given Up for
Field Service.

WILSON PRAISES WORK

Promises Meeting to Do All
in His Power for the
Wounded Men.

MISS BOARDMAN IS RE-ELECTED

Reports 195 Nurses and Surgeons
Have Been Sent to War Zone.
Hundreds Volunteering.

To better shoulder the titanic task of
ministering to the tens of thousands of
wounded and dying soldiers in the bat-
tling armies of Europe, the American
National Red Cross, at its tenth annual
meeting at the Shoreham yesterday,
dropped the staggering burden of feed-
ing, clothing and otherwise aiding the
suffering and starving noncombatants of
Europe.

The Red Cross was forced to take ac-
tion unprecedented in its long annals of
humanitarianism. This was done upon the
motion of Vice President Robert W. de
Forest, of New York.

In relinquishing the burden of the non-
combatants the Red Cross did not wholly
abandon them. It will not solicit or spend
any more money for the noncombatants
but will act as intermediary in transmit-
ting money and supplies to other or-
ganizations and persons doing relief work
for the noncombatants.

President Woodrow Wilson, president of
the Red Cross, presided but a few min-
utes, but while he held the gavel he made
an address which clearly expressed his
deep interest in the Red Cross.

"I am here," he said, "chiefly to ex-
press my desire to co-operate actively in
every way possible. The Red Cross, just
now, is charged with a peculiarly respon-
sible duty. It is really the medium of the
whole world, of that part of it disengaged
from the present terrible conflict, in min-
istering to those who need the ministra-
tions of comfort and relief."

All Should Co-operate.

"All eyes are centered upon the Red
Cross. All efforts at relief come sooner
or later into the councils of the Red
Cross. It is the more necessary, there-
fore, that we should co-operate with that
spirit which, I believe, we all think to be
characteristic of America, the spirit of
absolute disinterestedness, not thinking of
ourselves, but of the results we wish to
achieve."

Cannot Aid Non-combatants.

Miss Mabel T. Boardman, chairman of
the National Relief Board, in speaking
of "The Red Cross and the European
War" expressed "deep grief" that the
Red Cross should be forced to relinquish
its efforts for the alleviation of suffering
among the noncombatants.

"Some day, we hope and pray and be-
lieve, the Red Cross will carry its relief
and comfort to the noncombatants as
well as to the fighting men," declared
Miss Boardman. "But the rules of the
war game say food is contraband and
when the noncombatants ask for bread
we have had to give them stone."

Bush Helps in Work.

Mrs. William K. Draper, secretary of
the New York State Board of the Red
Cross, reported the accomplishments in
New York in assembling Red Cross sup-
plies and shipping them to Europe. Mrs.
Draper paid tribute to Irving T. Bush,
president of the Bush Terminal Com-
pany, who has given the use of ware-
houses which ordinarily rent for \$600. Mrs.
Bush was accorded an enthusiastic re-
ception when he said, "I first told the
ladies of the Red Cross they might have
the lots until December 1. I later ex-
tended the time to January 1. I now
say the Red Cross may use the rooms as
long as they are needed, and, of course,
there will be no rental charge."

Miss Jane A. Delano, vice chairman of
the nursing service, gave its report in
the absence of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid,
chairman, who is in London.

Miss Delano explained that during the
last month hundreds of nurses have vol-
unteered aid and hundreds of men have
offered to serve as nurses, hospital
orderlies and stretcher bearers. "The
nurses and surgeons now in Europe,"
said Miss Delano, "represent eleven
states and twenty-four cities."

The afternoon session closed with the
re-election of all officers with the ex-
ception of H. Kille Porter, of Pitts-
burgh, whose position on the central
committee was taken by John Bassett
Moore. In the evening, Miss Boardman
gave a reception to the delegates at her
residence, 1801 P street northwest.

D. A. R. Helps with \$7,800

Mrs. Joseph Ramsdell, treasurer gen-
eral of the D. A. R., reported at the Con-
tinental Hall meeting of that society
last night that to date \$7,800 had been
given by D. A. R. members to the Red
Cross for the relief of the war sufferers.

Prince of Wales a Captain.

London, Dec. 8.—The Prince of Wales
tonight was gazetted as captain of the
Grenadier Guards.

\$1.35 to Baltimore and Return
Every Saturday and Sunday, Pennsylv-
ania Railroad. Tickets good to return
until 9 a. m. following Monday.—Adv.

BRITISH SINK 3 GERMAN WARSHIPS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC; KAISER HAS PNEUMONIA; PARIS AGAIN CAPITAL

TWO SMALL RUSSIAN BATTLESHIPS SUNK IN THE BLACK SEA BY TURKISH CRUISERS

Constantinople (via Berlin and Amsterdam), Dec. 9.—It is an-
nounced officially that two small Russian warships were sunk in the Black
Sea on Monday by Turkish cruisers.

Petrograd, Dec. 9.—The Black Sea fleet of the Turks has renewed
its activity.
The admiralty announced today that the cruiser Breslau appeared
off Sebastopol on Monday and attempted to get within range of the port,
but was driven off by Russian cruisers.

KAISER VICTIM OF PNEUMONIA FROM EXPOSURE

Condition Admittedly Is Seri-
ous and Berlin Is Ap-
prehensive.

RESTRAINT IRRITATES

Temper Is Violent Toward
Those in Sick Room—Suf-
fers with Headaches.

CROWDS WAIT ON BULLETINS

City Gloomy and Night Life Practically
Is Abandoned, Owing to the
Emperor's Illness.

Berlin (by wireless via London), Dec.
9.—Emperor William today was un-
able to leave his sick room where he is con-
fined with a severe attack of pneumonia.
His condition is officially described as
serious.

The Kaiser's illness has been consid-
erably aggravated by nervous depres-
sion, due to over-exertion while at the
front and he is suffering from contin-
ued headache.

His temper is extremely irritable and
those around him describe his actions
as violent.

This change in his disposition came
after he was advised by physicians that
he should not return to the front. The most
earnest wish of the Emperor to be with
his troops in the field, directing their
movements, and his continued restraint
due to illness is wearing on his nerves.

The illness of the Kaiser has cast Ber-
lin into gloom. The city is apprehensive.
The night life in the cafes has been al-
most abandoned, and in the streets peo-
ple greet each other solemnly,
each in quest of the latest news from
the imperial chamber.

There was given to the press today an
address made by the Emperor to his
troops early this month at the army
camps of the Germans and Austrians on
the eastern frontier, just before the
Kaiser returned to Berlin. It reads:

"You are fighting for a just cause, for
liberty, for the right to exist as a na-
tion, and for a future of prolonged peace.
Even if the war should last for a long
time we shall not allow our opponents
to have a moment's quiet. We shall
continue to fight with success, for heaven
is on our side. With God we shall
achieve a prolonged peace, for our nerves
are stronger than those of the enemy."

SLAPS SPOUSE'S FACE AFTER FINDING TOTS

Mrs. John Kamb Creates Sensation in
Cherrydale—Finds Children in
Neighbor's House.

Mrs. John Kamb, who is suing her hus-
band for divorce and who offered a re-
ward of \$200 for information of the where-
abouts of her two infant sons, last night
created a mild sensation in Cherrydale,
Va., by slapping her husband in the face
during a conversation in front of Sim-
monds' drug store.

Mrs. Kamb had just located her chil-
dren in the home of a former neighbor.
The woman in whose home the children
were found was required to give bond
not to leave Virginia and has been cited
to appear at Alexandria County Court
House on Monday and deliver the chil-
dren to Mrs. Kamb.

Kamb and his wife formerly lived to-
gether in Cherrydale. When Kamb and
the children disappeared a few days ago,
Mrs. Kamb went to the Continental Hotel
here and issued notice that would reward
the finder of the children. She has re-
tained Attorney R. Gordon Finney.

Mrs. Kamb denies the newspaper re-
porter a tip and invited him to dine with
her.

POINCARÉ AND MINISTERS COME BACK TO PARIS

Return of Government Goes
Far to Restore Con-
fidence.

FRENCH REPORT GAINS

Teutons Are Driven from
Trenches Along Aisne
and in Argonne.

ADVANCE LINES STRENGTHENED

Artillery Duels Continue in Flanders,
with Allies Claiming the
Advantage.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Paris, Dec. 9.—Isolated engagements in
which the French artillery maintained
its supremacy over the Germans and the
infantry of the allies by a number of
successful attacks were able to advance
their lines at several points, were re-
ported today by the war office.

To Paris the development of trans-
cendental importance was the re-establish-
ment here of the French capital. Presi-
dent Poincaré and Prime Minister René
Viviani arrived from Bordeaux today,
the last to return of the official contin-
gent which withdrew on September 3
when Paris was threatened by Gen. von
Kluck's advance. All the departments
are now re-established here, and the city
looks more like the Paris of anti-bellum
days than it has for three months.

The return of the President and his
cabinet probably has done more to raise
the hopes of the Parisians than any of
the military successes of the past month.

German Trenches Taken.

Today's official reports showed that
the Germans were driven from trenches
in the Aisne district, in the Argonne and
along the River Meuse, while several
of their attacks have been successfully
repulsed. The allies are making good the
positions to which they have advanced in
the north and are now preparing for
new attacks and further gains.

North of Roye, the former battle front
of Von Kluck, the French today pressed
forward before the town of Parvillers,
gaining considerable ground. Renewal of
the German attempt to force the allies
back in the angle of the Aisne and the
Oise was indicated by a furious attack
by the invaders against Tracy-le-Val,
which was stopped and turned into a re-
treat by the vigor of the French de-
fense.

Artillery continues to wage a terrific
battle along the line of the Yser from
Nieuport to Lys and the region of Arras,
the French and British troops are busily
engaged in strengthening the advanced
positions gained on the railroad from
Bethune to Lens.

The French gains were particularly no-
table in the Argonne region where heavy
infantry engagements were fought, re-
sulting in the occupation by the French
of several German trenches.

Names Christmas Tree Treasurer.

Edmund S. Wolfe, cashier of the Dis-
trict National Bank, has been appointed
by William H. Singleton, chairman of
the executive committee on the com-
munity Christmas festival, as treasurer of
the finance committee. A meeting of the
executive committee will be held this
afternoon at the rooms of the Board of
Trade.

POPE BENEDICT APPEALS
FOR CHRISTMAS TRUCE

The Hague, Dec. 9.—The Ber-
liner Tagblatt states:
"The Pope has appealed to all
the belligerent powers with the
object of arranging a three
weeks' truce for Christmas. Ger-
many is unopposed to this in
principle."

VON SPEE GOES DOWN WITH FLAGSHIP; TEUTON LOSSES 1,500; BRITISH 3

Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, and Leipzig Sent to Bottom Off
Falkland Islands by English Cruiser Squadron Under
Vice Admiral Sir Frederick C. D. Sturdee—Admir-
alty's Announcement Fails to Give Details of Engage-
ment, but Surprise Attack Is Suspected, as Both Squad-
rons Were Supposedly of Equal Strength and German
Guns Had Longer Range Than British—Two Colliers
Captured—Nurnberg and Dresden in Flight.

ENGLISH SAILORS WIPE OUT CRADOCK'S DEFEAT
IN THE GREATEST NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OF WAR

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Dec. 9.—The British navy has squared the account with
Admiral Graf von Spee. In the most terrific naval engagement in point
of guns and tonnage yet fought in the war, Vice Admiral Sir Frederick
C. D. Sturdee's cruiser squadron engaged the German squadron of Von
Spee, sank his flagship, the armored cruiser Scharnhorst, of 11,420
tons; its sister ship, the Gneisenau, and the light cruiser Leipzig, of
3,200 tons. The light cruisers Nurnberg and Dresden escaped, and
are being pursued by the victorious Britons. Two colliers attached to
the German fleet were captured.

GERMAN LOSSES PLACED AT 1,500.

The official statement of the admiralty published by the press bu-
reau tonight says some survivors of the Gneisenau and Leipzig were
rescued, but no mention is made of any survivors of the flagship
Scharnhorst, and it is believed Admiral Graf Von Spee went down with
his ship. The complement of the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau were 746
men each and that of the Leipzig 303. Thus, more than 1,800 officers
and men were aboard the three ships, and it is believed the losses will
exceed 1,500.

WARSHIPS BLOCK GERMAN DRIVE

Shells from Sea Prevent At-
tack in Force on
Nieuport.

DRIVE IN OUTPOSTS

Nearly Out of Sight of Land, English
Fleet Bombs Teuton Coast
Positions.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Dec. 9.—The desultory bom-
bardment of German positions on the
Belgian coast by the British squadron
took definite form today and developed
into an effort to prevent the Germans
from approaching Nieuport while threat-
ening Zeebrugge with a new naval at-
tack.

Below Nieuport along the right bank
of the Yser there have been established
several batteries of German artillery
which have been engaged in a bombard-
ment of Oost Dunkerke, two and one-
half miles west of Nieuport. These guns
apparently are attempting to open up the
corridor to Calais along the littoral of
the Belgian coast. It is the apparent pur-
pose of the Germans to follow through
with infantry when the big guns shall
have made an opening.

The British bombardment is for the
purpose of blocking this infantry ad-
vance. For the last two days the long-
range guns of the British ships have
been raining shells into and over the
dunes on the eastern side of the canal
mouth to clear the coast of Germans and
to make a position in this vicinity un-
tenable for them.

Already a number of the German out-
posts have been forced to withdraw on
account of the heavy fire from the sea.

The British vessels are lying off at a
great distance. They can hardly be seen
from the shore.

So severe has the German bombard-
ment of Oost Dunkerke become that the
civilian population of the town is fleeing.
Today the Belgian government steamer
Ville d'Anvers landed about 130 refugees
from the region of Oost Dunkerke at
Dover.

Hotel Woodstock, New